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PRC Arms Sales/Arms Sales to Libya (Senator Helms)

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Question Summary: Whether the PRC has provided Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Libya or Syria with ballistic missiles with a range greater than 500 kms., capable of hitting Egypt and Israel. Whether the USG has a commitment from the PRC not to supply Libya with missiles of a range greater than 500 kms.

The PRC has provided Saudi Arabia with CSS-2 intermediate range ballistic missiles with a range of 1,000-3,100 kilometers. It is our assessment that the PRC has not provided ballistic missiles to any other country in the region or elsewhere.

On a number of occasions during the last Administration, the United States expressed its concern to senior PRC leaders over the dangers posed by missile proliferation. The Chinese have responded that with the exception of the sale to Saudi Arabia, China has not sold ballistic missiles to any other country.

According to other information available to us, we do not believe that China has sold ballistic missiles to other countries, including Libya. We have made clear to the Chinese the risks attendant on proliferation of such missiles, especially to regional hotspots such as the Middle East.

Chinese leaders have said that China will take a prudent and responsible attitude regarding weapons sales, including the sale of missiles. They have stated that China's arms sales are evaluated in terms of whether they strengthen legitimate self-defense capabilities and are conducive to the peace, stability, and security of the region concerned. Based on our

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discussions, we believe the PRC will not sell intermediate range missiles to Libya. We believe that the Chinese understand our concerns regarding the sale of ballistic missiles and that the constructive dialogue with them thus far provides a basis for optimism concerning future PRC sale of missiles.

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